Space Science Department Names O’Brien As Its Second Professor

Dr. Brian J. O’Brien of the State University of Iowa has been named Professor of Space Science in Rice’s newly established department.

Dr. O’Brien directed the design and construction of the radiation-research satellites Injun I, Injun II, and Injun III.

A NATIVE of Sydney, Australia, Dr. O’Brien was Chief Scientist of the Australian National Antarctica Research Expedition to Wilkes and Lewis Islet, Antarctica, in 1959. He came to this country in 1959 to work with the discoverer of the Van Allen Radiation Belt, Dr. James A. Van Allen of State University of Iowa. While at S. U. I., he directed that institution’s participation in the N.A.S.A. satellites Explorer XII, S-III A and others.

Dr. O’Brien’s research into cosmic radiation while at the University of Sydney involved the use of nuclear emulsions exposed in high-altitude balloon flights.

These early experiments and his continuing studies of the earth’s energetic-particle environment have been published in over thirty articles and papers in scientific and learned journals.

DR. BRIAN O’BRIEN
New Space Professor